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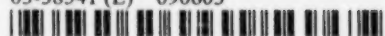
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Letter dated 3 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the Joint Declaration on the regional initiative regarding Iraq, issued by Iraq's neighbouring countries during the thirtieth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers, held in Tehran from 28 to 30 May 2003 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) M. Javad **Zarif**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



Annex to the letter dated 3 June 2003 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Within the framework of the thirtieth session of the Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers and in response to the initiative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to consider the latest developments in Iraq, the Foreign Ministers and the heads of delegations of the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the State of Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Turkey held a meeting in Tehran on the 26th of Rabiul Awal 1424H (28 May 2003). During this gathering, the Ministers and heads of delegations recalled the proceedings of their meetings in Istanbul on 23 January 2003 and in Riyadh on 18 April 2003. They discussed the current situation in Iraq. On the basis of their deliberations and taking into account the developments in that country, the Ministers and heads of delegations agreed on the following:

- Expressed their solidarity with the Iraqi people in the spirit of Islamic brotherhood
- Reaffirmed the necessity for all to respect the sovereignty, political independence, national unity, territorial integrity and stability of Iraq and to comply with these principles
- Reiterated the right of the Iraqi people to freely determine their political future and to establish a fully representative and broad-based Government in a safe and peaceful environment. This must be a matter of priority
- Emphasized also the inalienable right of the Iraqi people to enjoy a decent and comfortable life based on the rule of law, equality and respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms
- Stressed the right of the Iraqi people to fully control and utilize their own natural resources through a legitimate and representative Government
- Emphasized the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of Iraq as well as the necessity for Iraq to establish good relations with all its neighbours and to respect the existing treaties and agreements, especially those on internationally recognized boundaries
- Noted Security Council resolution 1483 (2003) and, in this context, welcomed the lifting of economic sanctions while expressing the hope that the humanitarian suffering of the Iraqi people will be alleviated, and underlined the need to comply with relevant Security Council resolutions
- Underlined the central role of the United Nations in post-war Iraq, especially with regard to the establishment of a representative Government, rehabilitation of local institutions, provision of humanitarian relief and reconstruction
- Welcomed the appointment of a Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, and expressed their firm determination to cooperate fully with him
- Called for the speedy restoration of full Iraqi sovereignty through the establishment of a legitimate Government and an end to occupation

- Underlined also the obligations of the occupying forces under international law, especially the 1949 Geneva Convention, to safeguard the security, stability, civil liberties and rights of the Iraqi people as well as the religious, historical, archaeological and cultural heritage of Iraq, and emphasized the necessity for them to act in a manner that will ensure respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the neighbouring countries
- Welcomed the initiative by the Syrian Arab Republic in the United Nations Security Council on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East.

The Ministers and heads of delegations agreed that the objective of this process, first initiated in Istanbul, then continued in Riyadh and now in Tehran, by countries of the region is to help restore peace, stability and security in Iraq. These countries should continue to lend the requisite support for these objectives in the future. The Ministers and heads of delegations therefore decided to hold further meetings until normalcy, security and stability are fully restored in Iraq.